



**Testimony for the House  
Natural Resources Committee  
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Chairman and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for House Bills 5148 and 5149. My name is Melissa Trustman. I am a Director of Government Relations with the Detroit Regional Chamber, an organization representing over 21,000 members in Southeast Michigan.

Increasing concern over waste disposal over the last few years underscores a need to more effectively deal with waste in our state. In addition to looking at our waste streams and increasing the efficiency of our consumption and business processes is the need to look at new technologies. House Bills 5148 and 5149, which create landfill research, development and demonstration projects (RDDP) will do just that.

Our current predominate landfill type is that which minimizes contact with outside elements – air, water or other non-sanctioned land. This legislation will present an opportunity to try a different approach through a faster decomposing method. To guard against any adverse side effects on surrounding areas or general well-being of the state, several protective measures are included with this proposal. The potential benefits of the new permit include:

1. Increased research and development opportunities for waste disposal in Michigan.
2. Allow for innovation of better waste disposal and management.
3. Benchmark results of new methods.
4. Maintain higher standards than current sites.

The guidelines contained within the new permit structure for RDDPs will take into consideration a multitude of factors to determine the success of the particular system. As the waste streams increase from within the state – as well as outside of the state – we need to be more proactive in managing that waste. Decreasing decomposition time will in turn also decrease our future landfill capacity needs.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions on our support. Thank you.

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